

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gupta et al. (US 6,487,538) ("Gupta"). Applicant respectfully traverses this basis for rejection.

Present claim 1 recites:

1. A system for Internet connections, which connects a user to a network, comprising:

an IP address usage information storage means for storing usage information regarding an IP address in association with the user using the IP address;

an access log recording means for recording an access log for a Web site in association with an IP address; and

an access information output means for referencing the usage information regarding the IP address and the access log for the Web site, to thereby associate and output an address of the Web site and information of the user accessing the Web site.

Gupta does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the above claim. Gupta relates to a method and apparatus for local advertising on the Internet, wherein the advertisements effectively target audiences.

The claimed invention requires (1) an "IP address usage information storage means", (2) an "access log recording means" and (3) a means for associating those two forms of information (1) & (2), in accordance with a predetermined IP address assigned to a user. This predetermined IP address essentially comprises a form of using dynamic IP address assignment.

Gupta does not address this broad system for Internet connections. It does not disclose a method based on a dynamic IP address assigned to a user by a terminal server, as recited in Claim 1. While it discusses a client/server/proxy system and Online Profile Management, it does

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not discuss the use of a predetermined IP address to make the association between a usage information and an access log. This continuously changing and novel arrangement appears nowhere within Gupta.

The Examiner states, as a reason for rejection, that "the raw form of Web site is represented by its IP address". However, Applicant respectfully points out that the IP address essential to the present invention gets assigned to the user, not to the Web site.

As described in the specification, the present invention is designed to distribute contents to the user terminal in real time. The present invention allows the presentation of uniform historical information to a user, even when the user uses a plurality of different terminals or browsers. The use of an IP address, where an association between the IP address and a user ID is terminated each time the user is disconnected from the Internet, permits such broad applications.

Gupta does not disclose such real time provision of contents, irregardless of the use of several different terminals or browsers. The disclosure of Gupta primarily limits itself to targeted advertisements provided to specific users of specific Internet Service Providers.

Similarly, independent Claims 9, 12-15, and 26 recite broad systems for Internet connections hinging an IP address assigned to a user, or a user ID using an IP address. As an example, Claim 26 recites "a means for assigning an IP address to the user terminal".

Applicant also respectfully asserts that the performance of a certification is not the functional equivalent of a "firewall", as stated by Examiner. As an example, the receipt of a user ID and a password as certification information from the user, and the issuance of a certification command in the present invention may extend beyond the mere security functions of a firewall. Notwithstanding such a proposition, Gupta does not disclose such a certification system arranged in conjunction with the above-described dynamic IP address system.

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For the above reasons, Claims 1, 9, 12-15, and 26 patentably distinguish over Gupta. Claims 2-8 and 10-11 ultimately depend from and include all of the subject matter of Claims 1 and 9, respectively. Since independent Claims 1 and 9 have been shown to be allowable, their dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-11 are also allowable over the cited references.

Claims 16, 23, 24, 27-29 also recite systems, installed at an Internet Services Provider, as an example, for obtaining dynamic user preference information without having to request information entry by a user. Digital contents are distributed based on signal sources information related to the user, in addition to the URL accessed by the user. An update command, regularly generated at a predetermined update cycle (several minutes or several seconds), can activate such signal source determinations.

In contrast, Gupta refers only to advertisers and targeted advertisements, typically provided as a static notice to the user. Gupta does not disclose means for promptly providing such signal source determinations, wherein said determinations occur on a real time basis, in conjunction with the use of a dynamic IP address. Furthermore, the present invention discloses a signal sources determination algorithm for determining the line network type of the user, also on a real time basis. Gupta fails to disclose this arrangement, as recited in Claim 29 of the present invention.

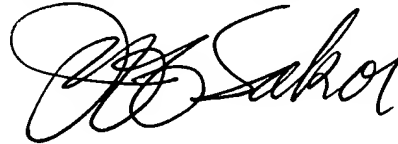
For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 16, 23, 24 and 27-29 are allowable over Gupta. Claims 17-22 and 25 ultimately depend from and include all of the subject matter of Claims 16 and 24, respectively. Since independent Claims 16 and 24 have been shown to be allowable, their dependent Claims 17-22 and 25 are also allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

For all of the reasons discussed herein, Claims 1-29 patentably distinguish over the cited reference of record and should be allowed. Such allowance is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions or other matters of which resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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